

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 200381

43

ORIGIN PM-04

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 OES-06 SS-15 ERDA-05 ACDA-07 SP-02

EUR-12 CIAE-00 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 EB-07

NRC-05 FEAE-00 DODE-00 COME-00 BIB-01 OTPE-00 AF-08

ARA-06 EA-07 NEA-10 /124 R

DRAFTED BY PM/NPO:MR.FINCH/RI

APPROVED BY PM/NPO:MR. OPLINGER

C - MR. FUERTH

OES/NET - MR. JENKINS

ERDA - MR. DOWD (SUBS)

ACDA - MR. OYSTER (SUBS)

EUR/RPE - MR. SWARTZ (SUBS)

S/P - MR. KAHAN (DRAFT)

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P 121604Z AUG 76

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USMISSION IAEA VIENNA PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 200381

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, TECH, PORG, IAEA

SUBJECT: PROPOSED COMMUNICATIONS NETWORK FOR NON-MILITARY
NUCLEAR EMERGENCIES

1. IN THEIR JUNE MEETING, THE NUCLEAR SUPPLIERS GROUP
ADOPTED A SET OF GUIDELINES FOR PHYSICAL PROTECTION OF
NON-MILITARY NUCLEAR MATERIALS. AMONG OTHER THINGS
THESE GUIDELINES CALLED FOR NUCLEAR SUPPLIERS AND
RECIPIENTS TO DESIGNATE POINTS OF CONTACT WITHIN THEIR
NATIONAL AUTHORITIES TO COOPERATE ON MATTERS OF OUT-OF-
COUNTRY TRANSPORTATION OF NUCLEAR MATERIALS, AND OTHER
MATTERS OF NATIONAL CONCERN.

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PAGE 02 STATE 200381

2. AS A MATTER RELATED TO THESE GUIDELINES, ERDA HAS PROPOSED ON AN INFORMAL INTERAGENCY BASIS THE IMPLEMENTATION OF A PRACTICAL NETWORK OF COUNTRY-TO-COUNTRY CONTACTS WHEREBY DESIGNATED OFFICIALS RESPONSIBLE FOR NUCLEAR SAFETY PROGRAMS CAN MAKE DIRECT COMMUNICATION WITH ONE ANOTHER. SUCH ARRANGEMENTS WOULD BE USED WHEN, AND IF, AN EMERGENCY SITUATION INVOLVING UNAUTHORIZED POSSESSION OF NON-MILITARY NUCLEAR MATERIALS IS IMMINENT OR ALREADY TAKING PLACE WHICH MAY HAVE INTERNATIONAL IMPACT.

3. THE PROPOSED NUCLEAR NON-MILITARY EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEM WILL BE DISCUSSED AND COORDINATED WITH APPROPRIATE USG AGENCIES. CONSIDERATION WILL BE GIVEN TO HAVING A STATE/ERDA TEAM APPROACH SELECTED COUNTRIES FOR BILATERAL DISCUSSIONS OF THE PROPOSED COMMUNICATIONS NETWORK TO BE FOLLOWED BY MUTUAL PLANS FOR POSSIBLE IMPLEMENTATION. IN THIS REGARD, THE INITIAL CONTACTS MIGHT BE THE UK, CANADA AND MEXICO.

4. REALIZING THAT SOME DISTINCTIONS MAY BE NECESSARY IN THE MANNER OF APPROACH TO THE VARIOUS COUNTRIES CONCERNED, IT IS GENERALLY AGREED THAT THE DISCUSSIONS SHOULD BE KEPT AT A LOW VISIBILITY.

5. DEPARTMENT WOULD APPRECIATE MISSION'S REACTION TO THE PROPOSED COMMUNICATION SYSTEM CONCEPT, AND THE APPROACH TO COUNTRIES AS RELATED IN THE DISCUSSIONS ABOVE. IN ADDITION, DEPARTMENT REQUESTS MISSION'S VIEWPOINT REGARDING DESIRABILITY OF INFORMING DG HALL AND ROMETSCH ON A LOW-KEY BASIS OF THE SUBJECT PROPOSAL. IN THIS REGARD, DEPARTMENT IS CONCERNED ON THE ONE HAND ABOUT ANY IMPLICATION THAT US IS UNDERTAKING NEW NUCLEAR INITIATIVE WITHOUT INFORMING AGENCY WHILE ON THE OTHER HAND WISHING TO AVOID ANY INDICATION OF POSSIBLE FUTURE ROLE FOR THE IAEA IN THE SUBJECT PROPOSAL DUE TO THE SENSITIVITY OF FRENCH AND OTHERS TO AGENCY INVOLVEMENT IN PHYSICAL PROTECTION ARRANGEMENTS. PLEASE ADVISE SOONEST.

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PAGE 03 STATE 200381

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: NUCLEAR ENERGY, SECURITY, POLICIES, EMERGENCY PLANNING, COMMUNICATION LINES, FISSIONABLE MATERIALS TRANSFER
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 12 AUG 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: KelleyW0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976STATE200381
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: MR.FINCH/RI
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760310-0908
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760859/aaaabzsb.tel
Line Count: 107
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN PM
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: KelleyW0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 29 MAR 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <29 MAR 2004 by greeneet>; APPROVED <03 AUG 2004 by KelleyW0>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PROPOSED COMMUNICATIONS NETWORK FOR NON-MILITARY NUCLEAR EMERGENCIES
TAGS: PFOR, TECH, PORO, IAEA
To: IAEA VIENNA
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006